

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 121 and 122 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-16, 18-39 and 41-120 are presently pending.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-16, 18-39 and 41-120.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 121 and 122 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi (US 5,219,786) in view of Zapata et al. (US 5,971,565).

By the present amendment, claims 121 and 122 have been cancelled, without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue such claims in a continuation application or other continuing application. Applicant intends to file such a continuing application, and therefore, the present amendment should not be construed as a surrender of the subject-matter of claims 121 and 122. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, and the Examiner's previous allowance of claims 1-16, 18-39 and 41-120, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON &
BEAR, LLP

Dated: Oct. 20, 2004

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